



## Paperweight With Clasping Hands



1 800 EUR

Period : 19th century

Condition : Bon état

Material : Marble

Length : 18 cm

Width : 12,5 cm

Height : 12 cm

### Description

Paperweight with Clasping Hands Patinated bronze, nero di Belgio and giallo antico marbles, pietre tenere Rome 1820-1850 12 x 18 x 12.5 cm (4.7 x 7.1 x 4.9 in.) Several paperweights featuring this same motif of clasped hands have been associated with the Neo-Gothic and Troubadour styles; consequently, they have been attributed to the Bourbon Restoration, specifically the reign of Charles X. While the sober and masterful bronze casting does indeed seem to belong to this period (the second quarter of the 19th century), the stylised laurel friezes and acanthus leaves decorating the cuffs refer instead to an ancient model. This style draws from Roman votive or utilitarian bronzes, of the kind of Roman votive hands or of the beautiful nucifrangibulum in the Archaeological Museum

### Dealer

**Galerie Lamy Chabolle**

Decorative art of the 18th and 19th centuries

Tel : 0142606671

Mobile : 06 11 68 53 90

14 rue de Beaune

Paris 75007

of Taranto. It reproduces the motif of the *dextrarum iunctio* -- the joining of right hands -- ancestor of the modern handshake and a gesture that, in Rome, solemnised a symbolic and at times legal union, whether between legitimate spouses or the Augusti of the Tetrarchy. The bronze hands rest on a plaque of *pietre tenere intarsia*, with a core of *nero di Belgio* and *giallo Antico* marble, which further supports the hypothesis of a production from the Grand Tour industry. The casting of the bronzes (actually a brass with a dark patina) is of high quality; the backgrounds were matte-finished with a *mat à la pointe*, and the veins of the acanthus leaves are, overall, elegantly chased. The giallo marble shows some chips and minor losses.